

The Challenge

Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, CA

November 2003

Vol. 60 No. 10

THE SURGEON GENERAL VISITS SIERRA

By Jim Manfred
Director of Operations

Lieutenant General James B. Peake, The Surgeon General, visited Sierra Army Depot on November 5, 2003. This was LTG Peake's second visit to Sierra Army Depot. His first visit occurred in 1993 while he commanded Madigan, the HQs of our Occupational Health Clinic. Accompanying LTG Peake was his G4 staffer, Col. Jonathan Kissane.

The visit began with a working breakfast where LTG Peake viewed our Depot Video, received a briefing from Sierra's Acting Commander, Mr. Vincent Sabatino, received a briefing from Col. Michael Daley, Commander USAMMA, and then received the specific briefing of Sierra's support to our Medical Mission by Ms. Cindy Garza, Program Manager for Medical Programs. Accompanying Col. Daley from USAMMA were Major John Rogers and Captain Mike Kauffman.

The Surgeon General reiterated to all attendees that we must come together as a medical community to find the most efficient and cost effective way to provide the latest medical equipment to

our soldiers while being cost conscious to the taxpayers. He continued by highlighting the rapid growth in medical technology and its potential impact on our medical element of the military. He urged each and every one of us to identify and implement changes that provide the latest medical support our doctors, nurses, and especially our soldiers need and depend on and more importantly deserve.

With this positive approach to our Medical Business, the tour began with a trip to the Occupational Health Clinic with a brief pass through of the conversion of part of the Clinic as a new Headquarters. Col. Bussell, Commander, California Medical Detachment, provided the tour of the Clinic and highlighted the support Madigan is supplying to the installation.

From the clinic, the tour continued through several Mission Shops to include the Mechanical Repair Shop by Mr. Danny Fletcher, the Welding Shop by Mr. Manual Leslie, an expanded Blood Lab Shelter and Building 211, the Medical Maintenance Building, by Mr. Dale Maynor, the storage pad of the hospitals by Mr. Larry Draper,



Photo By Lynn Goddard

Lieutenant General Peake, The Surgeon General, (left) listens as Larry Draper, Chief, Assembly and Containerization Branch explains how the medical items are inventoried upon receipt within the storage warehouse.

Superstacker instruction by Mr. Frank Hernandez, instruction on the operations of our Locomotive by the Rail Crew, Mr. Dave Russell, Mr. Randy Freeman, Mr. Ron Collins, and Mr. Frank Hernandez, a tour of our LTS and Reset activities in Building 357 by Mr. Dale Maynor, instruction on the DEUCE operations by Mr. Ron Hopkins, and a tour of our Potency and Dated Class VIII operations at Building 671. Yes, you guessed it!!! We managed to keep our Bus Driver gainfully employed during this tour. Thank you Mr. Cecil Fain, Union Vice President.

LTG Peake closed the visit with kudos to the staff's of USAMMA and

Sierra. He reminded us all of the Army Theme which when paraphrased boils down to we are still at war and we are not in a business as usual mode. Soldiers are dependent upon each and every one of our efforts and he urged us to continue to improve and grow with this support. (See the Army Theme paragraph below).

His visit ended with a ride to Sierra's Amedee Army Airfield, and a Chinook ride that allowed oversight of the depot in route to Reno/Tahoe International Airport. Team Sierra was honored by LTG Peake's visit given his very busy schedule. Thank You Surgeon General for your time and insights!!!!!!!



Our Army at War - Relevant and Ready

Request your assistance in spreading the word and sending the appropriate message(s). Our Army is at war with nearly 50% of its forces engaged in combat. We will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. Our Army is a proud member of the Joint Force expertly serving our Nation and its citizens as we continuously strive toward new goals and improved performance. The Soldier, his training, readiness, and welfare is central to all that we do. Please use this theme to communicate this message.

We are at war.

Commander's View

We celebrated Veterans Day this month. I want to take the opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all veterans for their selfless service to our country. Your contributions have been instrumental in making this country a great nation. Many of the freedoms we enjoy today are the result of your outstanding service.

With that said, please read the following poem by Father Dennis O'Brien, USMC. "It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, Who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier, Who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag, and Whose coffin is draped by the flag, Who allows the protestor to burn the flag."

SAFETY

The last couple of weeks brought us the first real taste of winter, and with it, hazards that require extra thought and caution.



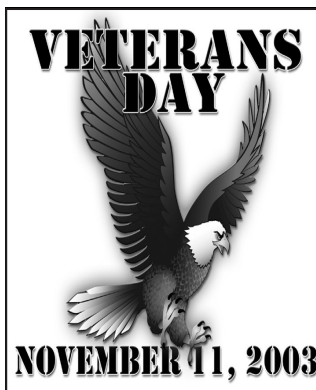
Vincent Sabatino

Winter increases our exposure to carbon monoxide as many people reduce ventilation and use fuel-burning heaters or run their automobile engine to keep warm. Any combustion process produces carbon monoxide and if exhaust fumes are not adequately ventilated, the gas may build up and cause suffocation. Use some common sense! Provide adequate ventilation anytime fuel-burning heaters or engines are used.

The annual Combined Federal Campaign is underway and will continue until December 15th. I encourage

you to consider giving to this important and worthwhile program. Lynette Hall has volunteered to be the "keyperson" and will be getting the necessary information out to the workforce in the very near future.

In closing, I want to wish all of you and your families and loved ones a happy and safe Thanksgiving.



Recently I was detailed into the position as Editor of the Challenge after the retirement of Larry Rogers, former Public Affairs Officer. It is my intent to continue to make this paper a newsworthy edition that not only keeps depot employees informed on what is happening at Sierra Army Depot, but also higher headquarters and outside community members.

Although my strategies may be different than my predecessor, my goal is still the same. To publish a newspaper that will keep the attention of all readers. I encourage everyone to submit information that you would like to see published on a monthly basis, whether it be of work nature or community involvement. I cannot guarantee that I will always be able to publish the information, but it will be taken into consideration and an explanation will be given, if asked, why your article did not make the cut.

What I ask in return is that if you have any comments or questions about the newspaper, you afford me the opportunity to know the nature of this concern and who it is I am talking to so that the same mistakes are not made in future editions. The most important factor for any journalist is to know who and where their source of information is coming from. I also ask for your patience if the newspaper does not come out on time. This would mean that I have been pulled to cover some special visit or project that needs to be included in the current edition of the Challenge.

So for the time that I am detailed into this position, I look forward to working with the great employees here at Sierra Army Depot.

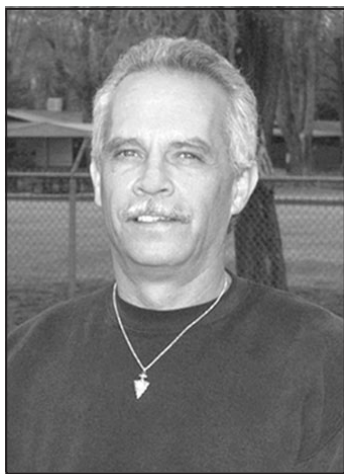
The Union's Position: AFGE, Local 1808

UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE:

Applications for the 2004 Union Plus Scholarship program are now available. To download an application go to the [College Financing](#) page of the AFGE web site or to have one faxed to you, send a fax request to 202-639-6492. To receive one by mail, send a postcard with your name, return address, telephone number and Local number to AFGE, M&O Department, 80 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

As of Oct 30, 03 the Union is finalizing its proposal to the proposed 5 days/8 hours. It is a power point presentation and we will present it to Mr. Sabatino on Nov 04, 03.

Whatever the outcome of this meeting we will still have to negotiate specific details of the shift. The Union is optimistic on it's proposal.



Jim Swistowicz

Election of Union Officers for AFGE Local 1808 will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2003. Candidates for each office are as follows:

President: James Swistowicz, Executive Vice: Cecil Fain (incumbent),

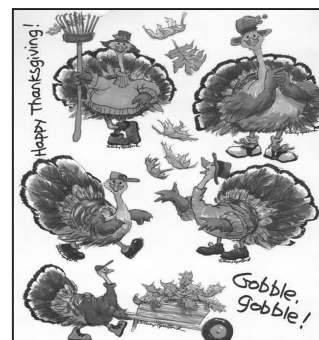
and Dan Harp, Vice President: Garry Garrett, Paul St.Germain, Sec/Treasurer Sue Leslie

Sergeant at Arms: Duane Schlusler Executive Board Member (two positions) Brenda Fletcher (incumbent), Manual Leslie, Cherise Sims and Barbara McGee.

Elections will be held at the Union Hall bldg. 58. Polls are open from 6:00 am to 1230 PM and 2:30 to 7:00 PM. I would like to see all members of AFGE Local 1808 come to vote.

Union Representation: If you need to see a steward or talk to a Union Representative, you must notify your supervisor first. This will preclude any interruption in the work and that the scheduled meeting is agreeable to both parties.

Union Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at the Union Hall at bldg. 58. Union Office Phone; x5375.



The Challenge

This is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of *The Challenge* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army. 850 copies are printed by Folger Graphics, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government, under exclusive written contract with Sierra Army Depot. The editorial content of this

Depot Commander/Publisher

Public Affairs Officer/Editor

Editorial Assistant/Photographer

Mission Update Staff: Ruth Dowden/photographer, Brenda Fletcher, Meg Hill, Barb McGee
publication is the responsibility of the Sierra Army Depot Public Affairs Officer. It is published monthly by the **Public Affairs Office, Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, CA., 96113. Telephone (530) 827-4343 Email: lori.mcdonald@sierra.army.mil**

Col. Paul Plemmons

Lori McDonald

Lynn Goddard

Barb McGee

Unless otherwise noted, all articles and photographs are provided by the editorial staff. Letters to the editor and classified ads must include a name, signature and telephone number to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited to fit space.



OPSEC and the War of 1812

Depot to Provide Flu Shots

The Occupational Health Clinic will get the flu vaccine from California Medical Detachment, Monterey towards the end of November. They are giving flu shots to all of the active duty personnel first. They just began the process this week.

As soon as the Clinic receives the vaccine, notification will be sent out to all depot employees as to the location at the various work sites. If your private medical doctor recommends that you not wait to receive your flu shot, please heed his/her advice.

If you have any further questions regarding the flu shots, please contact Ms. Susan Byrd, Occupational Health Nurse at extension 4244.

It was warm that August night 190 years ago, even in the foggy morning hours before daybreak, when word came to the citizens of St. Michaels that the enemy was approaching. The War of 1812 was about to erupt on the tiny hamlet nestled in one of the many coves of the Chesapeake Bay on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The British planned a two-pronged attack. Three hundred Royal Marines landed ashore and prepared to assault the town while the royal Navy's brig *HMS Conflict* positioned itself off the harbor and prepared to bombard the

town from the sea. However, British preparations gave the townspeople plenty of warning and they devised an ingenious deception plan to counter the British attack; they blacked out the lights and candles in their homes and placed lanterns high in the trees around the town which caused the naval gunners to overshoot with their barrage. The town was saved and the British troops withdrew. The blackout is believed to be the first of its kind in history and to this day St. Michaels is proud to claim the title of "the town that fooled the British."

This footnote in American history reminds us that when America is under attack, she depends on her citizens to rally to her defense with innovative methods. Though the townspeople of St. Michaels did not know the term *Operation Security*, they applied its principles. Then, as now, Operations Security can help save lives and defeat the enemy. Remember a good OPSEC countermeasure is anything that works.

Credit to Patrick Weadon, The Interagency OPSEC Support Staff (IOSS).



NEW EMPLOYEES ON BOARD IN THE CONTRACTING OFFICE



The Contracting Office welcomes two new employees to their organization. Ms. Theresa Coffenberry, left, came to us from TACOM-Rock Island's Acquisition Center and has quickly found her way into the hearts of many of our customers. Ms. Eva Austin, pictured right, is a Contract Specialist who came to us from Wisconsin. Her Contracting background was with the US Coast Guard Civilian Engineering Unit in Juneau, Alaska. Welcome both Theresa and Eva to Sierra.

Vaccination Shields Service Members in Annual Flu Battle

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23, 2003 - At this time of year clinics and hospitals can be swamped with people "bitten" by a nasty bug known as the influenza virus.

Getting the flu not only is an unpleasant experience, noted Dr. David Tornberg, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for health affairs' clinical and program policy. It's also a potentially debilitating illness that can wreak havoc in large organizations like the U.S. military.

Therefore, "it's very important that all active duty personnel be vaccinated in order to prevent the consequences of influenza, which can just devastate our military," Tornberg pointed out. He noted many service members live in close-quarters environs such as barracks, which can facilitate the spread of illnesses like the flu.

People with flu may be ill for several days, Tornberg said, noting symptoms can include a runny nose, a dry, sore throat, cough, and fever and chills. Rest and drinking plenty of fluids, he noted, are two time-tested methods of treating the flu. However, getting a yearly flu shot, he pointed out, can prevent an occurrence of the illness or at least mitigate its effects.

Prevalent flu strains vary from year to year, Tornberg explained. Therefore, DoD and civilian health care agencies monitor worldwide health trends, he said, to develop predictive models in determining the components "of the next flu outbreak."

Anti-flu shot vaccines contain weakened flu virus, Tornberg noted. The administration of flu shots, he continued, causes a person's body to develop antibodies programmed to

combat any appearance of flu virus, thus providing a measure of immunization. And this year there's plenty of flu vaccine to go around, Tornberg reported.

Military family members should get flu shots, too, as well as children who are 6 months of age or older, Tornberg noted. Older people should also be immunized against the flu, he added, as they can be particularly susceptible to the virus.

People who shouldn't get flu shots, Tornberg said, include those allergic to hen's eggs, from which flu shots are made, or people with weakened immune systems.

DoD doesn't offer nasally administered flu immunizations, Tornberg explained, because, as a live virus, the vaccine must be provided in several doses in the nasal version. The syringe-

administered flu shot is better for the time-pressed military, he noted, because one shot provides immunity.

People who are uncertain if they should get flu shots or nasal immunizations should consult with their physician, he said.

Annual immunization against the flu is a worthwhile endeavor since the virus can indeed be dangerous, Tornberg emphasized, noting that pneumonia and even respiratory failure can result in severe cases.

The 1918 Spanish flu epidemic, he pointed out, killed millions worldwide. However, such a catastrophe is unlikely to be repeated today, Tornberg said, noting, "We (the nation) lacked the medical facilities in those days to deal with the subsequent complications of the flu."

WHO CARES ANYWAY?

Special by Ruth Dowden

When was the last time you asked someone how they were and did not wait for an answer - you simply walked away? It wasn't that long ago was it? *Who Cares Anyway?* Well, I care!

When you ask me how I am, or if I had a nice weekend, I expect you to wait for my answer! If I ask you how your family is or if your cat had her kittens yet - it is because I care..and yes, I will stand there and wait for you to tell me. *If I did not care I would not ask.*

Why do you think we are that way? We ask questions..but don't expect an answer...we just walk away too busy to listen. Are we just in too much of a hurry to care about others any longer? I hope not.

Try this when you go into a store every once in a while. You see someone who looks lost or unhappy, strike up a conversation with them. It would go something like this: "Hi, how are you..it has been a long time since I saw you last..how are you doing"?...*ok expect the weird looks as they are asking themselves "do I know this crazy person?"*. You would be *amazed* on what you learn about that person, and when you part company

you have made a new friend. You may see them somewhere else in town later on and they will stop and talk for awhile. You might not find out their names, as it is not important, what is important is that one day you cared enough to put a smile on someone's face and made their day a little more pleasant. I started doing this when I was growing up in Susanville. It was a game I played for my own amusement, at least it started out that way. Then it got where it was serious and I started caring.

Recently my husband and I went to our favorite eating spot in Litchfield. There was a woman and her 3 children that came in and sat at one of the tables. I noticed she counted her change out and then looked at the menu, (I was close enough to hear her order). She ordered 3 hamburgers and 3 small milks, and when asked if she wanted anything, she replied she was not hungry. The waitress was a friend of mine so I walked back by the cooking area and asked her to change the woman's order to 4 Cheeseburgers, 4 fries, 3 large milks and a coffee (or anything else the lady wanted to drink), and to please add it to my bill.

The waitress agreed with a smile and continued on the way to the cook. When the order was placed on the table of the small family the woman's eyes opened in shock. "I did not order this, and there is no way I can pay for it." The waitress smiled and told her "it has been taken care of...just enjoy it and have a good day". As the woman looked around to see if she could guess who had paid for their meal, I looked at my husband like what he said was so terribly important. Well, they ate every bit of it, and when they left there was a \$1.00 tip on the table for the waitress.

My friend came over to me before I left and asked me why I did it. In all the years she had been a waitress, she had seen many count their change and order for their children and not themselves without anyone caring. I told her a story of an 8 year old girl and her family on a trip home from Oregon along time ago. The Mother stopped at a small hamburger place, counted out what little change she had, and ordered 2 hamburgers and 2 milks for her children. When the order came, there were mounds of french fries and 3 Cheeseburgers..milk for the children and coffee for the Mother.

Better Than Pumpkin Pie

Ingredients
1 large can solid pack pumpkin
1 cup sugar
1 cup brown sugar
3 eggs, beaten
1 Tablespoon cinnamon
1-12 ounce can evaporated milk
1 dry yellow cake mix
1/2 cup oleo
1/2 cup nuts
Mix pumpkin, both sugars, eggs, vanilla, milk, and spices. Pour in 9x13 inch pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix on top. Sprinkle with nuts.
Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 60 minutes.
Enjoy!



Directorate Promotions:

Chris Buffham was promoted to a Production Machinery Mechanic, WG-5350-10. Chris was formerly a General Support Helper.

Mike Moore was promoted to a Production Machinery Repairer, WG-5350-08. Mike was formerly a General Support Helper

Chris Jacobs was promoted to a Painting Worker, WG-4102-07. Chris was formerly a General Support Helper

Brett Weaver was promoted to a Painting Worker, WG-4102-07. Brett was formerly a General Support Helper



Anticipated Vacancies:

Tool & Parts Attendant, WG-6904-4/5
Supply Technician, GS-2005-6/7
Quality Assurance Specialist, GS-1910-09/11
Freight Rate Specialist, GS-2131-6/7
Painting Worker, WG-4102-7/9
Industrial Arts Specialist, GS-1101-7/8
Welder, WG-3703-08/10
Woodworker, WG-4604-7/8
Material Handler (MVO), WG-6907-6/7
Packer, WG-7002-4/5
General Supply Specialist, WG-2001-9/11
Production Controller, GS-1152-9/11
Production Controller, GS-1152-11/12
Electrician, WG-2805-10
General Supply Specialist, GS-2001-11
Air Conditioning Equipment Mechanic, WG-5306-10
Painting Worker, WG-4102-07

Resumix Coaches are here to help you if you need assistance. Please call to make arrangements to see them and don't just "drop-in". Update your resumix now and start self-nominating!

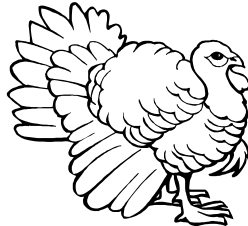
Welder, WG-3703-10
Mobile Equipment Metal Worker, WG-3809-09
Welder Worker, WG-3703-08
Woodworker, WG-4604-07
Instrument Mechanic, WG-3359-11
Mechanical Equipment Repairer, WG-5801-08
Painting Worker Leader, WL-4102-07
Production Machine Mechanic Leader, WL-5350-10
Supply Technician, GS-2005-07
Supply Technician, GS-2005-05
Materials Handler, WG-6907-06
Materials Handler, WG-6907-05
Packer, WG-7002-06
Motor Vehicle Operator, WG-5703-07
Motor Vehicle Operator, WG-5703-06
Fuel Distribution System Worker, WG-5413-07
Office Automation Assistant, GS-0326-05

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Thanksgiving is a typically American holiday...

The lavish meal is a symbol of the fact that abundant consumption is the result and reward of production.

Ayn Rand (1905-1982)



Team Sierra Congratulated on Accomplishments

As we review the accomplishments of Sierra Army Depot from the past year, it has been a monumental and successful change for all of us. We collectively have doubled our Direct Labor Hours from FY02; supported the War effort on the run; and still managed to ship a heavy volume of ammunition to other installations. You all should be very proud of yourselves and your other team members for what was accomplished. Lets talk a little more detail on these accomplishments.

Here are some gee whiz numbers for starters; 3,660 truckloads of materiel shipped; 1,091 Rail Cars loaded and moved; 71 military aircraft loaded; 306 Commercial Aircraft Loaded; 62 shipments made for vessel sailings; and 4,288 Containers shipped. These data are so impressive that it requires the need for each of us to take a deep breath in awe of our effort. Congratulations to Team Sierra!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Ammunition Division shipped over 36,000 tons of munitions to other installations. Most of this was accomplished in a four-month time frame. I would put those kinds of numbers in front of any Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 depot to duplicate. Many long hours were spent accomplishing this effort, and a lot of dedicated Sierra Team Members sacrificed many weekends to meet this requirement. Great job to all and thanks for the dedication.

The General Supply folks were busy filtering through a "sea of landing mats" from dusk to dawn, and then some: preparing load plans and executing the building of 463L pallets, moving truckloads of air



James Manfred

shipments to Reno or Amedee, loading trucks and rail cars constantly, traveling CONUS and OCONUS to assist our deploying troops, and even volunteering to enter the theater of operations to support the efforts of our troops. Great job to all and thanks for your dedication.

Let's also take some time to thank the rest of the Sierra Team Members that made this past year a success. Thanks to all of the valuable support received from our Garrison members. The hours of arduous repairs of equipment, modifications to lighting, assistance in gaining approval to hire both temp and perm employees, food preparation and distribution, secu-

rity, safety, fire support for our operations to include Amedee Airfield, Contracting, EEO, and our Training Department. Thanks for the tremendous support of the Mission requirements. Accomplishments are zero without your support.

Last, but not least, the support we all received from our Command Group solidified our ability to exceed expectations to support our fighting men and women. Their focus and willingness to comprehend our position, suggest strategies, and sell those strategies to GSIE and TACOM were exactly what we needed to have happen. Thanks for your support as well.

Now that we have had an opportunity to reflect on our past accomplishment, Team Sierra now faces a wonderful challenge of how to double last year's output. We are looking at accomplishing 1 Million Direct Labor Hours in FY04. We have a hiring plan and an initial workload schedule to meet. We are in the process of hiring additional Perms and Temps. We have briefed our plan to TACOM twice already. We have approval and need to execute the plan. Changes will be required to include shifts to accomplish this workload, but Team Sierra always comes through to support our Troops in harms way. Alternatives are being reviewed from Union to Management to determine the best way to proceed. One thing is sure, our "CAN DO" attitude will override any difficult decisions we face along our way to do what we can to fight back the BRAC scenario.

Great Job to all!!!!!!!!!!!! Look forward to a prosperous new Fiscal Year.



Sue Getty will be reporting to her new duty station in Japan around the middle of November. She works as an General Supply Specialist for the directorate in the Business Development Office. She will be missed not only by her co-workers, but the customers she dealt with.



Photo By Lynn Goddard

Major General Herbst, Deputy Surgeon General, pictured left, visited our depot with many elements of the Reserve Components from his staffers and the Regional Medical Training Sites. The purpose of the visit was to discuss the medical support Sierra provides and how it complements Reserve Component Training. Ms. Cindy Garza, pictured left discusses the dolly sets that are stored here at Sierra Army Depot.

The depot video, Command Briefing, and the normal tour route was accomplished by Team Sierra. Potential new business opportunities were discussed to include training at Sierra which complements RTS Med Sites. We were invited to an RTS Med Site at Camp Parks, CA and other RTS Med Sites were offered



Photo By Lynn Goddard
Sue Leslie, left, and Don Cook work together on the raffle tickets during the annual AFGE Local 1808 dinner that was held in Reno, NV at the Peppermill Hotel/Casino on October 17, 2003. The annual event was another success and fun was had by all who attended.



Ron Hopkins, right, WG-06, Packer gave a short introduction to LTC Peake on how to safely operate the DEUCE. LTC Peake was able to take the vehicle for a short drive and was pleased that he was able to operate the different pieces of equipment during his visit.



Photo By Lynn Goddard
Dale Maynor, left, General Support Worker, gives Colonel Daley, center, a tour of the expandable hospitals that are currently stored here at Sierra Army Depot, as Mr. Larry Draper, far right, Chief, Assembly and Containerization Division listens on.

Special Olympics seeks volunteers

Lassen County Special Olympics is actively looking for additional volunteers. They will hold a meeting in the Lassen Community College Humanities Building at the Susanville campus, November 20, beginning at 7 p.m.

For more information call Carrie Nyman at the College, 257-6181, extension 8980.



Col. Daley presented coins to the effort in the war. Pictured back Front row from left to right Zoltan



Photo By Lynn Goddard

ker gave a short introduction to LTC Peake on how to
G Peake was able to take the vehicle for a short drive
to operate the different pieces of equipment during his



Lynn Goddard

Picture back row from left to right are Leonard Dowdy, Leif Anderson, Steve Watkins, Ken Fanning, Robert Ray, and John Paine. Front row left to right Jason Tong, Mike Johnson, Larry Cowan, Vincent Sabatino, and Craig Swanson. Nine the depot employees were part of the HUMVEE group that deployed earlier this month.



Col. Daley presented coins to the individuals within the P & D Division, Directorate of Operations, for their appreciation in support of USAMMA's effort in the war. Pictured back row left to right Sue Getty, Lovina Retterath, Kelli Horan, Amy Johnson, Sue Leslie, Chris Powers and Colonel Daley. Front row from left to right Zoltan Andahazy, Jackie Russ, Ed Hopkins, Gerald Mode, Eric Hull, and John Knaup.

CYS News

CYS is planning a variety of activities centered around the Thanksgiving holiday. The MS/Teens are doing a Holiday cooking experience and plan some activities in support of Veterans day.

A fundraiser has been started to buy recreation items for the soldiers in Iraq. Money is collected at the CYS, Building 145, to purchase board games, volleyball nets, volleyballs, etc. These are some of the items requested directly from our troops. Everybody is invited to stop by and make a donation. It was also brought to our attention that a lot of our soldiers are

not receiving any mail from home, so the CYS kids will start writing letters to the soldiers. If the raised funds allow, CYS will be sending cookies and personal items to the troops. On the home front, CYS is hosting a soccer banquet on Nov 13, 03 to present trophy's to all the players. CYS had 4 teams participate in the Susanville soccer league.

SAS will have their own Thanksgiving party, make colorful leaves, have a drawing contest, and have a jump rope challenge. Ideas were submitted by Audrnae McGinnis, Jake Croghan, Danielle Harris, Justin White and Jazmine Quezada.



School Liaison Services Corner

CYS School Liaison Services will be sponsoring several educational events for high school students in the local area. These activities are geared toward preparing youth for the "working world", post-secondary opportunities, and handling stressful situations academically, socially, and emotionally. The first three programs that we will focus on is the Boys and Girls Clubs of America's Career Launch program, PSAT/PACT Testing, and a mentorship club comprised of youth from the high school. These programs will start on Nov. 5, and will continue through Dec. 9. The Career Launch program will be available to students in grades 10-12, PSAT/PACT testing will be available to students in grades 11-12, and the mentorship club is open to all high school students.

The Partnerships in Education (PIE) initiatives that CYS has estab-

lished with the local schools are designed to support the educational endeavors of students and also provide support for parents, teachers, and administrators. The partnership programs with the school will take place at the high school as well as the CYS facility. There will be sign-up sheets distributed for each program and if students are interested in any of the upcoming events they must sign up for the programs. The sign-up process will be completed at the high school two weeks before the first activity. Our goal is to recruit and retain youth through the various services that we provide in our facility. If parents or youth would like to learn more about all of our programs, please call us at 827-4696 or stop by Building 145 on the Depot. If you have specific questions about School Liaison Services, contact Dorothy Lange at 827-4696.

Scholarship Program By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service
WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2003 — Nov. 4 kicks off the application period for the children of active duty, retired and Guard and Reserve members to apply for \$1,500 academic scholarships. The application window for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program extends through Feb. 18.

Now in its fourth year, the program, operated by the Defense Commissary Agency, has awarded nearly \$2.5 million in scholarships to some 1,500 children of U.S. service members and retirees.

The goal, according to Kay Kennedy, chief of corporate communications for the Defense Commissary Agency, is to award at least one scholarship at every commissary location, depending on the number of qualified applicants and funding.

Funding comes from manufacturers and suppliers whose products are sold at military commissaries, Kennedy explained. In addition, the Fisher House Foundation is underwriting the program's administrative costs.

The general public can also contribute to the program through the Fisher House Foundation [<http://www.fisherhouse.org/>] and the Armed Forces Foundation [<http://www.armedforcessupport.org/>].

Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael Wiedemer, director of the Defense Commissary Agency, said he is excited about the program's growth. Last year, 550 scholarship recipients were selected from 6,500 applicants.

Among them was Matthew Clark, a junior at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif., when he learned last year that he had been selected to receive what he described as a much-needed scholarship.

Clark wrote to officials at the Defense Commissary Agency that he always sensed that his father, a disabled Vietnam Veteran, had felt extreme frustration about not being able to work and provide for his family.

"I see this scholarship as an act of appreciation for what he did for our country," Clark wrote. "When I found out that I had won the award, I wrote him a letter of thanks. I told him that without his sacrifice, I would not have even had the opportunity to apply."

For more information about the scholarship program and application procedures, visit the program's Web site [<http://www.militaryscholar.org/>].

MWR Services

Skedaddle Inn Conference Center

Lounge is open Thursday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The Skedaddle Inn Conference Center is equipped to cater large or small events. Call the manager at 4360 or email: ok.fern@sierra.army.mil
Hours: Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sierra Lodge/Guest House

Call the lodging manager, 4544, or email: ok.fern@sierra.army.mil for information.

Sierra Bowling Center and Snack Bar

NEW HOURS Open everyday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call 4442. Check out the Lunch Specials Monday through Thursday. Delivery available on all orders received before 1045. Contact Chris Long to book your birthday packages and holiday parties. Dates will fill p quick so act fast or you may miss out.

Physical Fitness Center

Open Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The only charge to individuals is \$3 for use of the Racquetball Court (per hour).

ITR is available at the Physical Fitness Center. For information call 4655 or email: raul.granados@sierra.army.mil

Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental

For reservations and information call Joe Rosnack, 4354.

Laundromat

Open daily, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. in building 142. Cost for wash, \$1.25 and .25 cents for 15 minute drying. For your convenience, there is a machine with laundry supplies located inside the facility and also a change machine.

Recycling Center

Open Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 4504.

Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

Administrative Office, 4563, Administrative Assistant, 4497, Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. tamara.gage@sierra.army.mil or regina.stauffer@sierra.army.mil Business Office: 4178, 4155, 4154.

WE CARE - Saving Specialist Gray

By MAJ Kevin J. Cuccinelli
Battalion Surgeon, 1-8 Infantry

While the daily headlines report that we need more soldiers in Iraq, I know one soldier that would disagree. For 22-year old Specialist Roy Alan Gray, there were more than enough soldiers here when the task at hand was to save his life.

Specialist (SPC) Gray is a member of the 1-8 Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th ID, otherwise known as the "Fighting Eagles." On September 8, 2003, he was part of a convoy delivering the coveted "hot dinner" to his battalion's headquarters (HQ) area. SPC Gray had just returned to his truck when a mortar round exploded only 30 feet away. Shrapnel from the mortar pierced the truck's metal door and cut up through his left thigh. Smaller shrapnel bits lodged in his shoulder and ear. The leg wound, however, proved to be life threatening.

At his location was the forward deployed aid station for his unit. The medics acted quickly, called for an Air MEDEVAC immediately, and attended to his injuries while the helicopter was en route. The medics initiated this care as more mortars continued to impact around them. They started 2 IVs and began pouring fluid into him. His thigh wound still bled profusely even after their initial treatments so the medics quickly opted for a tourniquet, a common last resort measure. The tourniquet stopped most of the bleeding by blocking all blood flow to his injured leg. While this greatly increased the chances that he would lose his leg, it stopped the more immediate threat of massive blood loss, thereby saving his life. The surgeons would later report that if not for the medic's immediate response, SPC Gray would have been dead on arrival (DOA) by the time he made it to the hospital.

Meanwhile, the MEDEVAC team from the 54th Medical Company, Air Ambulance (UH60, Blackhawk helicopter crew) was already in route to SPC Gray's location. From the time they received the call to landing at the site, they clocked 25 minutes. This includes the mandatory 18 minutes to prep the helicopter, chart their location, and load up. It was only a 5-minute flight, which means the crew was ready to go, from a dead stop, in less than 2 minutes. They did a quick assessment of the tight surroundings and set it down in the only open area, immediately in front of the HQ build-

ing. The medics quickly loaded SPC Gray onto the helicopter for the short trip to the 21st Combat Support Hospital (CSH).

The CSH (referred to as the "CASH") is no ordinary hospital. Designed for field environments and quick mobility, it is comprised of numerous long insulated tents attached to one another to form a series of wings. Resources are minimal and cleanliness is a constant battle in the sand covered country of Iraq. Less than 15 minutes after hitting the door, the ER staff completed a rapid assessment and SPC Gray was on the operating room table being treated and stabilized.

The medical staff knew all too well that death was imminent. They started the emergency medical board process, done to ensure that his family back in Iowa received maximum benefits. They didn't think he would live the 3 hours required to complete the board. He had lost almost all of his blood. Hemoglobin and Hematocrit, lab tests that measure blood levels, were at critical levels of 1.6 and 6.2, respectively. Normal levels are approximately 15 and 45. His blood pressure to perfuse his vital organs was unstable but being maintained with the initial IV fluid push.

Now the doctors and nurses began blood transfusions with red blood cells, the cells that transport oxygen. The orthopedic surgeon placed an "external fixator," similar to a large brace, that locks onto the separate pieces of SPC Gray's shattered femur, the largest thigh bone. This is a temporary fix to stabilize the injury. They also cleaned out his wound and began antibiotics to help ward off infections. In the OR, an arteriogram, which is an x-ray where they shoot dye into the blood vessels to search for bleeding, was done. Discovered sources were controlled. SPC Gray is now breathing through a tube hooked to a ventilator. He is receiving medicine for sedation and pain. He is then transferred to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) wing of tents where he received round the clock attention from the staff, who managed all his medications, ventilator, fluid balance, blood transfusions, IV fluid replacement, wound care and labs.

Thus begins the intense monitoring of his status. Immediate lab results continue to reflect significant bleeding. The source of the bleeding is still unclear. Was it more open blood vessels or his body's reaction to the donated blood? At times his bleeding was faster than the

replacement. The decision was made to again take him back to the OR for exploration as to the source of bleeding. While the wound left a hole in his thigh large enough for surgeons to fit their hands through, the largest artery, vein, and nerve were amazingly undamaged. His condition was tenuous. There was some bleeding, which was controlled; however, not to the extent that would explain the blood loss. The wound is cleaned and packed with special gauze impregnated with substances to help clotting. SPC Gray returns to the ICU. The transfusions had to continue until they could find the cause of blood loss.

SPC Gray's continued blood loss soon led to the problem of replacement. The hospital staff became concerned that they would not have enough. To make matters worse, the red blood cells and plasma he was receiving only represent a portion of all the substances in our "whole" blood. Platelets, another portion, which are necessary to clot blood, were not available in the blood bank. These levels had also dropped to critical levels of 14,000 (normal is 250-450,000).

As supplies ran low, the doctors began an impromptu blood drive. They simply walked from room to room in the hospital asking for personnel with O positive blood. Every available person with O+ blood capable of donating did hospital to brief the worried soldiers that were his co-workers and friends. They were notified that SPC Gray was likely going to die, but that the people taking care of him were doing everything possible to give him a fighting chance. This included the need for blood, which the hospital did not have enough of. Everyone with O+ blood was asked to go to the hospital and donate. We stay to answer some questions and return to the hospital less than 5 minutes later. To our surprise, we find 30 soldiers already lined up outside the lab ready to donate. This group also included members of the North Dakota National Guard whom CPT Ryan had called for help. None of them knew SPC Gray personally. They simply knew what uniform they shared.

Now that a large source of blood donors was available and 12 more hours passed without improvement in his stability, he was taken to the OR for a 3rd time. It was only after a third trip to the OR that doctors were able to determine the source of the continued bleeding. They were less delicate this time, opening the wound wider to en-

large the exposed area. Tissue was sacrificed in deference to the ultimate goal. They finally located the source - a 'pumper' coursing backwards, hidden behind the bone and buried beneath most of the tissue in his thigh. Doctors quickly tied it off. Other slow seeping bleed sources were cauterized (burned). And, as a final effort to stop the blood loss, doctors applied a new substance, called "Quick Clot" in a non-conventional fashion. They spread it over the surface to concentrate the blood seepage, thereby assisting with the wound's overall ability to clot. It is not typically used in this manner, but the surgeons wanted to take all precautions.

2 hours later, for the 1st time in 36 hours, SPC Gray's blood levels were stable without getting any additional blood products. The nurses continued to check frequently. The next lab results were even higher. His blood pressure was no longer falling and he did not need medication to maintain it. Other indicators of organ perfusion and function were also good. His clotting indicators improved and stabilized. His kidneys were working. A pink hue returned to his face. He required lower doses of medications. His blood pressure and pulse normalized.

In the early morning hours of September 11, the Air Force transported SPC Gray to Baghdad and shortly afterwards to Landshtul, Germany. Still unconscious and reliant on a respirator, his condition remained critical. His parents were flown in to be by his side. The medical staff at Landshtul continued his care and treatment, cleaning his wounds, treating infection and monitoring his condition until September 24th when he was flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital in Washington, D.C. On September 27th, he regained consciousness to discover all the fuss he caused. His broken leg will require further care. He still has much ahead of him.

A total of 47 units of blood products were given. Our bodies have about 6 liters of blood; therefore, this represents approximately 2 complete replacements of his blood supply. This does not include the 24 liters of IV fluid he received, representing another 4 total volume replacements. 61 people were on the blood drive, including members of his unit, soldiers he didn't know from other units, medical staff

(con't on page 10 - We Care)

(We Care - continued from page 9)

taking care of him and others who just heard about the situation.

By all accounts, SPC Roy Gray should not have survived. Had he not been injured right next to his aid station, or his fellow soldiers and medics not raced out to his aid, or the helicopter not arrived in time, or the doctors not been able to find the source of his bleeding, or the blood drive not succeeded, then you would have heard that we lost another soldier on the evening news back home. Instead, by last count, 113 people took direct part in the care of SPC Gray from point of injury to his evacuation from Iraq. It took that many "cogs in the wheel" to accomplish this improbable save. There were many individual cogs, that if any failed, SPC Gray would have died.

Keep in mind that this count does not include the second Blackhawk crew that flew him to Baghdad, the C-130 aircraft crew that flew him to Germany, and his hospital staff there, or his final flight crew that returned him to Washington D.C. so that yet another medical staff can nurse him back to health. This number does not include those who indirectly supported his care, such as hospital personnel who keep the hospital running, flight coordinators, supply personnel, etc. What about keeping all these people fed, sheltered and paid? Who made sure all the equipment in the ER/OR/ICU was stocked and available for use? Who kept all the vehicles involved in working order? Who is helping the families back home?

SPC Gray's case is representative of the esprit de corps of those in uniform out here in Iraq. There are many people involved in keeping us alive and working for freedom in Iraq that are never seen. The Army's doctors, nurses, medics, pilots, crews, lab techs, National Guard soldiers, and Airmen are, more often than not, in a combat support role, much like SPC Gray. They too risk their lives, left their families and friends and sacrifice. They are not likely to be the ones that find Saddam. They do not man the checkpoints or conduct the raids, but they do see the casualties. They understand truly that "Freedom isn't free" and witness its price. They can only stare at the daily horrors of the war and negotiate for a lower price. They spend all day, every day, attempting to get all the "SPC Gray's" home to their families, alive and well.

Interestingly enough, on September 8th, the national news back home reported "there was little action in Iraq today..."

The following persons saved SPC Roy Allen Gray's life:

1-8 Infantry, Forward Aid Station:
MAJ Wayne Slicton, 1LT Kyle Chowchuvech, SGT Steven Welch, SGT Sean Burns, SGT Curtis Driver, SGT John Gazzola (64th FSB), SPC Cory Sheldon, PFC Michael O'Shaughnessy, PV2 Earl Bennett
54th Medical Company, Air Ambulance, Blackhawk crew:

CPT Price, WO1 Walters, SGT McGovern, SPC Rafiq

21st Combat Support Hospital:
ER staff: CPT David Coffin, CPT Emma, CPT Johnson, CPT Winn, 1LT Bishop, SGT Aquino, SGT Fisher, SPC Burrell, SPC Doetzer

OR staff (3 shifts): MAJ King, MAJ White, CPT Rathjen, CPT Ritter, 1LT Kosterbader, SGT Emerick, SGT Longfoot, SPC Ontivaros

21 CSH Doctors: COL Kilburn, LTC Endrizzi, LTC Kim Kessler, MAJ Olsen, MAJ Doug Boyer, MAJ Matt Brown,

ICU: MAJ Gorren-Good (GG), CPT Kate Carr, CPT Jen Florent, CPT Pulliam, 1LT Brandt, 1LT Krans, SGT Norman, SGT Troy Smith

LAB: SGT Stanley Taylor, SGT Larry Harrod, LT Reynaldo Torres, SPC Christian Chavez. SSG

Antoine Smith. SPC Jordan Uzzo, SPC Mario Flores-Bautista, SPC Jason Williams, PFC Andrew Craig

1-8 IN CHAPLAINCY: CPT Leif Espeland, CPT Dallas M. Walker (21 CSH), CPL Jesse Whitaker

BLOOD DONOR VOLUNTEERS: CPT Janice Follwell, 1LT Reynaldo Torres, SPC Jordan Uzzo, SGT Erick Cedeno, MAJ Douglas Boyer, COL Robert Lyons, PFC Thomas Watson, CPT Dallas Walker, SSG Raeby Malone, SGT Albert Juarez, Bryan Goff, 1LT Gregory Hotaling, CPT Kevin Ryan, CPL Simon Benkovic, SPC Matthew Harmon, SPC Shane Bartrum, PFC Kenneth Griffin, SGT Andrew Casebolt, Robert Henderson, CPL Chad Pecha, SPC Michael Marin, CPL Christopher O'Hearn, SPC Steven Haston, Brian Finney, PFC Ezra Davis, Jaime Martinez, SPC David Marron, SSG Ryan Miller, PFC Aaron Taylor, SPC Adam Gajewski, CW2 Wayne Fylling, Kevin Kerner, Charles Monson, Chad Vinchattle, Kevin Slagg, Cory Cavett, David Aldrich, Michael Gross, SPC Nicole Jochim, Vanessa Imdieke,

David Drehn, SPC Curtis Petrick, SPC Derek Lennick, SGT Bracston Mettler, PFC Carmichael Gillespie, SSG Dwayne Hickman, CPL Jessica

Larriba, CPL James Geah, SPC Jerry Nowell, SGT Tyler Berry, PFC Blondene Leys, SPC Lenroy Millet, SPC Dwayne Cooper, SPC Brandon Curran, PFC Adam Taylor, Carson Stringham, SPC Bullard, SSG Z Tumamad, PFC Jeremy Waldie, SPC

Aenoi Phommachanh, SPC Richard Kern

(Editors Note: Last month Sierra Army Depot shipped 24 generators to support the 21st CSH. So as you have read, what we do here is making a difference).



Weary Travelers Support Soldiers at BWI

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31, 2003 — Nearly everyone has experienced it at one time or another: an airport bogged down by bad weather, delayed and cancelled flights, and cranky, overtired travelers wanting nothing more than to get to their destinations.

That's exactly what Will Ross, an administrative judge for the Defense Department's Office of Hearings and Appeals in Los Angeles, encountered Oct. 27 at Baltimore/Washington International Airport.

But what he witnessed that day, he said, "made me proud to be an American, and also told me why we will win this war (on terrorism)."

Like many of his fellow passengers, Ross had been forced to spend the night in Baltimore. His outbound flight, scheduled for the night before, had been cancelled due to the California wildfires. They had forced the Los Angeles International Airport to close, and the ripple effect drove domestic travel nationwide into a tailspin.

When Ross reported to the United Airlines counter the following morning for the next scheduled flight to Los Angeles, bad weather and aircraft mechanical problems made the prospect of a timely trip even more grim.

As he waited in the terminal, Ross noticed many soldiers in their desert camouflage uniforms, newly arrived from Southwest Asia. All, like Ross and the other passengers at the airport, were awaiting connecting flights—but in the soldiers' case, it was to begin two weeks of rest and recuperation leave.

Flight delays continued and the airport had become, in Ross's words, "a zoo." By the afternoon, one flight to Denver had been delayed several

hours. United Airlines agents kept asking for volunteers to give up their seats and take another flight, but Ross said they weren't getting many takers.

Finally, Ross said a United Airlines spokeswoman got on the public address system and made a desperate plea. "Folks, as you can see, there are a lot of soldiers in the waiting area," the agent said. "They only have 14 days of leave and we're trying to get them where they need to go without spending any more time in an airport than they have to."

"We sold them all tickets knowing we would oversell the flight. If we can, we want to get them all on this flight. We want all the soldiers to know ... we respect what you're doing, we are here for you and we love you," the agent continued.

"The entire terminal of cranky, tired, travel-weary people—a cross-section of America—broke into sustained and heartfelt applause," Ross said. "We're talking about several hundred people applauding, a whole terminal."

"The soldiers looked surprised and very modest," he continued. "Most of them just looked at their boots." Many of the travelers in the terminal wiped away tears.

"And, yes," Ross said, "people lined up to take the later flight and all the soldiers went to Denver on that flight."

Ross said he figured that 30 or 40 people had suddenly jumped at the change to offer their seats to U.S. soldiers.

That moment, he said, reinforced his patriotism and his heartfelt belief that the United States will prevail in the war on terror.

Open Enrollment for Thrift Savings Plan

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a retirement savings and investment plan for Federal employees. The purpose of the TSP is to provide retirement income. The TSP offers Federal employees the same type of savings and tax benefits that many private corporations offer their employees under "401(k)" plans. The retirement income that you receive from your TSP account will depend on how much you (and the Agency, if you are a FERS employee) have contributed to your account during your working years and the earnings on those contributions. A FERS employee who is not participating in the TSP is getting an automatic 1% of their salary contribution from the government but are missing out on the chance to gain government contributions of up to another 4% of their salary, plus the tax break on their earnings that active investing would bring.

TSP Open Season. The TSP open season began October 15, 2003 and ends December 31, 2003. During Open Season, participants covered by FERS may elect to contribute up

to 14% of the basic pay they earn each pay period to the TSP and up to the IRS annual limit of \$13,000 for 2004. Participants covered by CSRS may elect to contribute up to 9% of the basic pay they earn each pay period, up to the IRS limit. Army civilian employees may make changes to existing accounts or enroll during this Open Season through the Employee Benefit Information System (EBIS). To make changes through EBIS, use the Army Benefits Center website, <https://www.abc.army.mil>, and click on the Benefits/EBIS tab or through the telephone based Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) at 1-877-276-9287.

Open Season changes affect only your future contributions. If you want to reallocate your TSP account, you must make an Interfund transfer by either the website at <http://www.tsp.gov>, or by calling the ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777. To access your TSP account and make transactions on the TSP website or the ThriftLine, you must use or have your 4-digit TSP PIN.

TSP Catch Up Contributions.

TSP participants age 50 and older may elect to contribute up to \$3,000 in 2004 through TSP Catch Up. Catch Up contributions are in addition to regular TSP contributions and participants must elect to contribute the maximum amount allowed through regular TSP contributions before being eligible to make Catch Up contributions. You can sign up for Catch Up contributions at any time. You must, however, make a new election for each calendar year because the annual IRS elective deferral limit for Catch Up changes yearly. TSP Catch Up elections made by December 13, 2003 will be effective the pay period beginning December 14, 2003 and paid during the pay week January 5-9, 2004. TSP Catch Up elections for 2004 may be made through the Army Benefits Center website or by submitting Form TSP-1-C.

If you have any questions concerning TSP, contact Jim Usher, CPAC, at extension 4333.

Facelift to Kandahar AF

By Spc. C. Elijah Spencer, USA
Special to American Forces Press Service

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan, Oct. 29, 2003 – After three years, four rotations, and who knows how many thousands of troops, Kandahar Air Field here is getting a facelift.

"We're going to be here for a while", said Lt. Col. Steven Mahoney, Airfield Support Task Force commander. "The main thing is that the soldiers here get the things that are important and essential for a good quality of life away from home."

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent has moved to a larger, more convenient location past the hangar on Warrior Way. The gym has moved from behind the post exchange to the same area as the MWR tent. And when construction of a new PX Mini Mall is complete, soldiers can get their uniforms altered or patches sewn on at the new alterations and embroidery shop.

Troops also will be able to pick up something for the folks back home at the improved gift shop or the new jewelry shop. For the sports enthusiast, the latest in workout apparel and accessories will be available at the new sporting goods store.

Soldiers can relax by sipping on a hot cappuccino at the new coffee shop or grab a bite to eat at Nathan's Hot Dog Shop.

Further improvements are planned, including modular housing, complete with central air conditioning and heat, Mahoney said. These aluminum buildings will feature four-man rooms. Other comforts in the buildings will include showers, toilets and refrigerators, he added.

Even though morale at KAF is good and the service members are content with their surroundings, Mahoney said, he knows life will be better for the soldiers here as the improvements continue.

"They deserve everything that we're doing for them", he said. "Soldiers know how to soldier. They are not complaining, but we're still going to make things better."

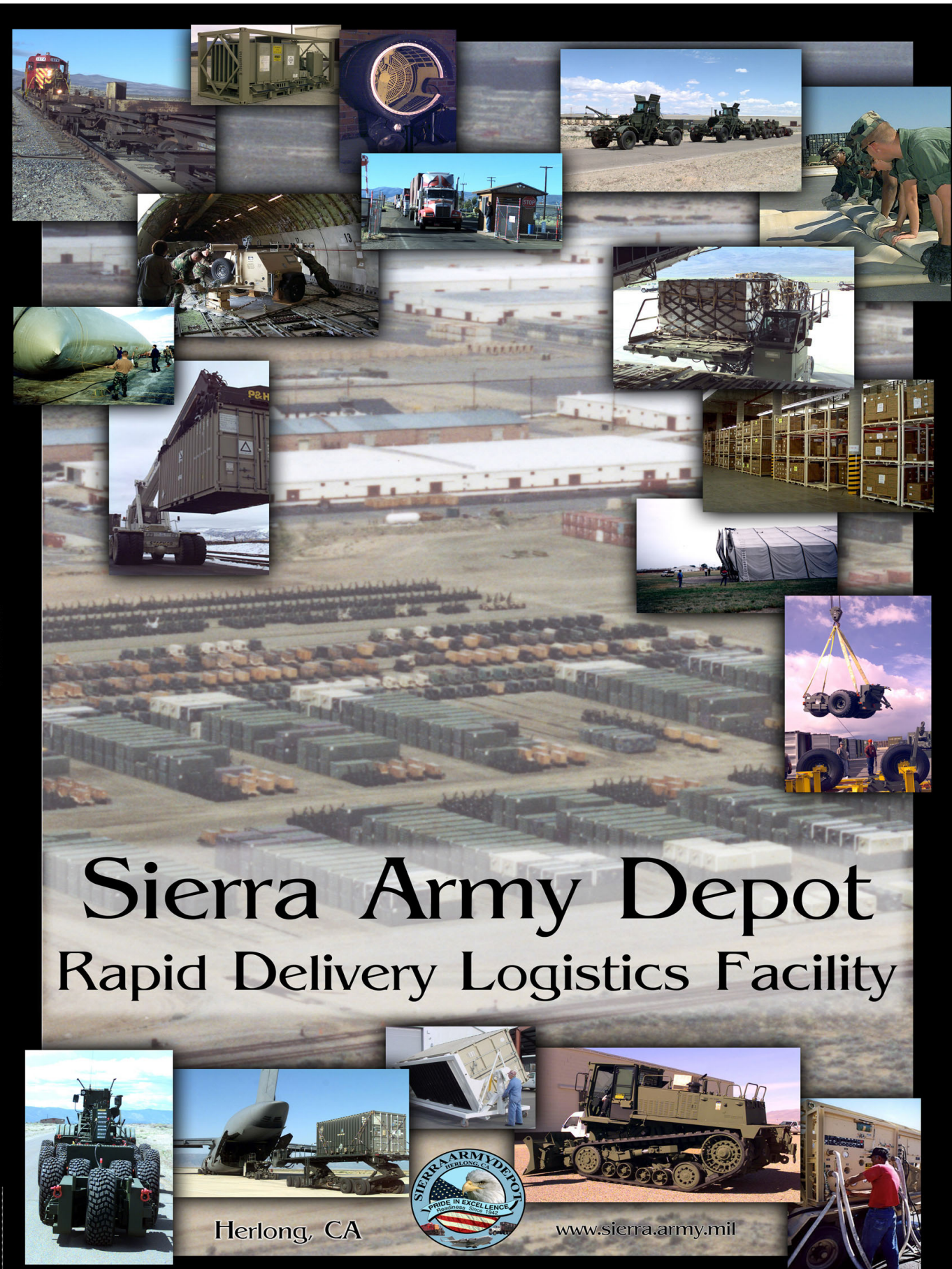
(Army Spc. C. Elijah Spencer is assigned to the 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)



Photo By Lynn Goddard

Lieutenant General James Peake, The Surgeon General, pictured left, receives instructions from Daivd Russell, Locomotive Engineer, prior to taking the controls of the depot engine. LTG Peake was the first dignitary to have the honor of operating the train, which he maneuvered without any problems.






The collage features a variety of military logistics activities. At the top left, a train with a red locomotive is shown. Next to it is a large green storage container. In the center, a red semi-truck is parked. To the right, two military vehicles are on a road. Below these, a large aircraft is being loaded into a hangar. In the middle, a large white storage building is visible. To the right of the building, a large green storage container is being lifted by a crane. Below the building, a large yard filled with stacks of military equipment is shown. To the right of the yard, a large green storage container is being lifted by a crane. At the bottom left, a military vehicle is shown. In the center, a large aircraft is being loaded into a hangar. To the right, a large green storage container is being lifted by a crane. At the bottom right, a large green storage container is being lifted by a crane.

Sierra Army Depot

Rapid Delivery Logistics Facility

Herlong, CA

 www.sierra.army.mil